ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's Newsletter

Number 62. April, 1994.

THE TIME IS NOW!

And we do mean convention time in San Francisco! Every week we get an update from our co-chaircouple, Ruth Willard and Shirley Mohr, and every week the news couldn't be better. Reservations are coming in each and every day, the program has been finalized and is looking just great, the weatherman promises balmy May sunshine, and as a special treat, both Diana Crawforth of Oxford, England, our EQM editor, and member Janet Scarratt of Leicester, England, will be our honored guests as well as featured speakers at our Sunday metrology seminar. In a word, all is in readiness for the arrival of the many members coming to the City on the Bay, and we do hope you'll be among them. And if you're a last-minute type person and haven't made your reservation yet, take heart. Our co-chaircouple tells us that there's a better-than-even chance that if you call Shirley Mohr right now at 415/892-9741, we'll be able to bring you on board (starting with the Thursday night cruise) to join the festivities.

AND STILL ABOUT CONVENTIONS...

We're pleased to report that the site for our 1995 get-together is the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania (a stone's throw from Harrisburg). We were enthusiastically solicited by the hotel's sales people, learned that the Lodge is one of the most popular meeting places in the East, and heard all about some of the novel "chocolate

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adventures" we could anticipate. Our directors were pleased with the central location (close to New England, the mid-Atlantic, the southeast and the midwest), and the idea that a countryside resort setting just might be a welcome change from big-city convening. The vote for Hershey was unanimous and the dates of May 4 to 7, 1995, settled on, so all you need do until we tell you more (shortly) is to earmark the dates on your '95 calendar. (And to you chocoholics out there, don't try to break your habit until after Hershey.)

WE HOPE THE RUMBLINGS ARE OVER.

As you might know, we're referring to the severe earthquake that hit Los Angeles this past winter. With 55 or so of our members residing in California, we had good reason to be worried, first, of course, about life and limb, and second, about property, including scale collections. We were greatly relieved to learn that as far as we could tell, none of our members suffered any bodily harm, but this wasn't the situation with property. Several members, including Ted Stein, who lives in Northridge (the epicenter), witnessed considerable damage to their collections and other valuables, and, as Ted put it, "Insurance coverage doesn't make up for the loss, as all too often, valuable scales are irreplaceable." To those who suffered damage of any sort, we extend our sympathy, along with the hope that time will assuage your loss.

HOW TO GET A HOWE.

We're talking catalogs, of course. Just a few days ago, we received a letter from a catalog dealer offering us a 156-page Howe catalog, dated May 1, 1896, fully illustrated, and complete with prices. Howe being one of the more popular and prolific manufacturers at the turn of the century and in the decades following, we hastened to buy the catalog, and in the next few weeks we'll reproduce it in quantity and offer it to our members as the latest addition to ISASC's (and everyone's) library. The last Howe we reproduced was their 1902 catalog, published by us in 1981, so this one should be welcomed with open arms

(and checkbook) by virtually every member who knows the Howe name (and who among us doesn't?). Be alert for the July mailing which should include this very special offer.

AN INVITATION FROM OVERSEAS.

Twice a year, our British brethren extend to us in the Colonies an invitation to join their upcoming metrology meeting, and, in point of fact, hardly one of their meetings goes by without someone stateside taking them up on their offer. That being so, it should be good news to any of our members planning a trip to the U.K. this coming fall that the next collectors' meeting in England will be on October 16th in Haverhill, Suffolk, on the site of a contemporary scalemaker. That's really frosting on the cake, as from what we've heard, their meetings are unfailingly most entertaining as well as instructive. If you're headed for Europe this fall and want to include Haverhill on your itinerary, write or call Brian Stimpson for more details at 6 Sycamore Avenue, Allestree, Derby DE3 2HZ, England; phone 0332-559-068.

76 TROMBONES AND A THOUSAND THANKS.

We've just closed the books on our 1994 Benefactor Program, pleased as could be that 76 members, a record number, saw fit to support our annual effort to supplement our income and thereby sustain our top-caliber way of doing things. The funds, of course, are voluntarily contributed, and this year the total amount given also was a record-breaker. We continue to owe a debt of thanks to all those members who saw fit to give, and are including a list of their names with this mailing as a small but heartfelt way to acknowledge their generosity.

AND NOW -- ABOUT OUR MONEY.

Every year about this time, our treasurer, Jan Macho, pulls all the numbers together and gives us ISASC's annual statement for the previous year. A copy of Jan's bottom-line report is enclosed, and

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it clearly affirms our solid financial status. While th figures speak for themselves, it should be noted that the $10,098 excess of revenue over expenses has yet to be offset by a debit of several thousand dollars for the approximately 300 catalogs ordered from England and paid for by our members and for which payment by ISASC is still due. Nevertheless, this one obligation will not alter the fact that 1993 was a very good year for our Society, and we'd like to think a portent for the future.

PROJECTS UPDATE.

The first that quickly comes to mind is our 1994 Membership Directory, your copy of which is enclosed and ready for your binder. Our North American Chapter member count now stands at 272, and we expect it to grow appreciably during the months that lie ahead. (The European Chapter member count, by the way, is well over 100.)

The second project deserving a report is our bibliography, at the moment being diligently worked on by members Eric and Judy Soslau. A number of members have been extremely selfless in helping the Soslaus compile and screen the many titles of scale books and catalogs they've unearthed, and this coming May, at the San Francisco convention, we'll be hearing a Soslau report on the status of the project and at the same time seeing the first draft. If our timetable goes as planned, the inaugural edition will be published sometime in early 1995.

MISCELLANY.

** In mid-February, we received an invitation from member Lynn Harding to attend the "Unveiling of a Silver Mine" in early March. Our curiosity piqued, we read on to learn that Lynn's business is building replicas of "mechanical, industrial and scientific antiquities," in concert with her husband David, a custom model builder. This particular replica was a working scale model of the steam-driven hoisting and pumping machinery of the Savage Mine in Virginia City, Nevada, and we regretted that we just couldn't get away to attend its unveiling in Ojai, California.

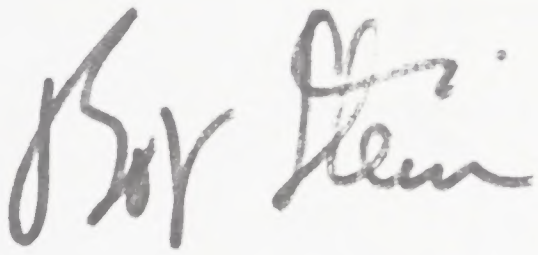
Lynn's business sounds fascinating, and it's likely she'd welcome a visit from any of our members from California, or those passing through, who'd like to see what model-building of antiquities is all about.

** Member Jerry Katz sent us an antiques column by Judy Campbell from the March 14 issue of AntiqueWeek, in which the controversy over the "Hoadley Scale" was again raised. The question that usually arises is whether E.J. Hoadley of Hartford, CT, was a scalemaker or a confectionery manufacturer, and whether Hoadley himself made scales, or just bought them, put his logo on them, and used them as a goodwill giveaway. If any of our readers can throw some light on this question, write us and we'll gladly publish your findings. And by all means, do let Jerry Katz know what you know.

** Postcards and tradecards depicting scales are a collector's delight, and some of our members have extensive collections of "scale ephemera," or by-products of scales that take many forms. On the backside of this page are two antique scale postcards, one published by the New York Zoological Park, and the other, "Playing Grocer," printed in Germany but published for sale in England.

And on that ephemeral note, we conclude our April missive. We're busy these days getting ready for San Francisco, and hope to see all of you there.

Fraternally,



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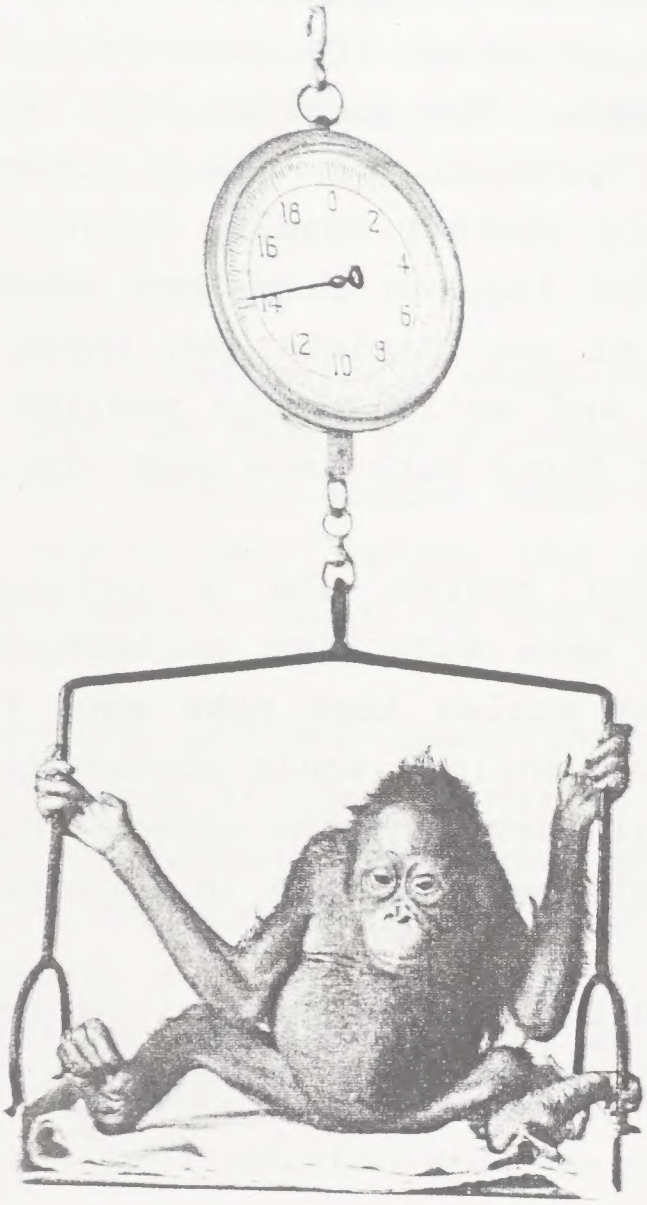

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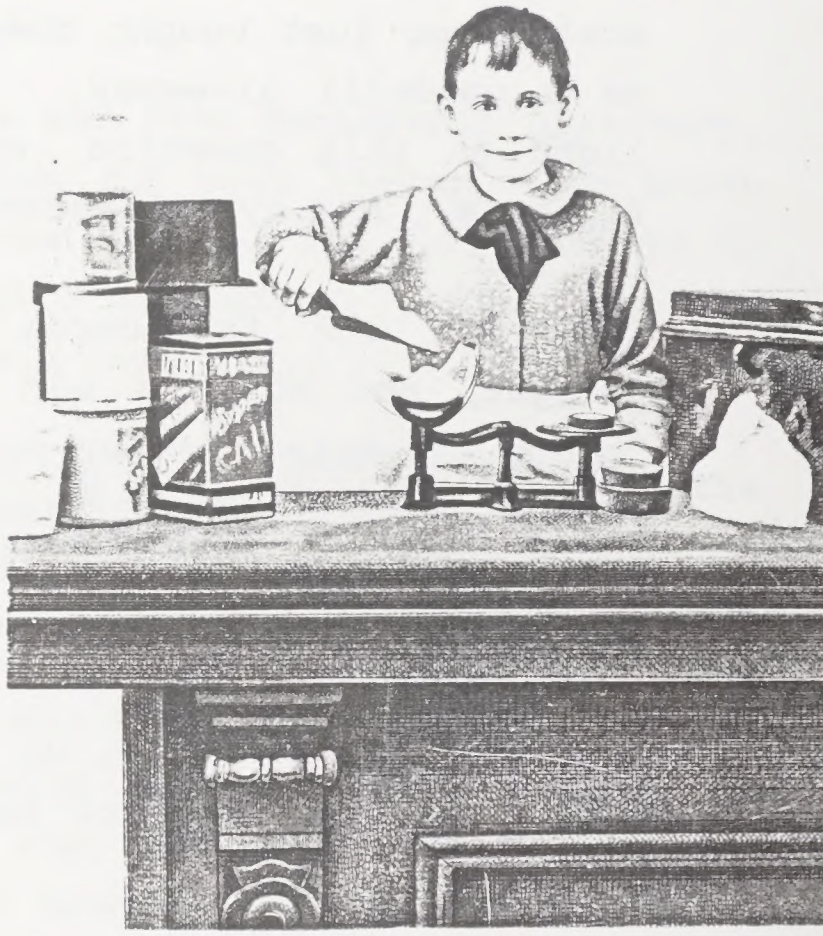

PLAYING GROCER.